PATENT

Case Docket No. HIKAR1.001APC
Date: February 26, 2003

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s)	:	Katsumata et al.
Appl. No.	:	09/762,568
Filed	:	February 6, 2001
For	:	NOVEL PLASMA VECTOR
Examiner	:	Unknown
Group Art Unit	:	Unknown

I hereby certify that this correspondence and all marked attachments are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: United States Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 2327, Arlington, VA 22202, on

February 26, 2003
(Date)

Jennifer A. Haynes, Ph.D., Reg. No. 48,868

TRANSMITTAL LETTER

United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 2327
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Sir:

Enclosed for filing in the above-identified application are:

(X) A Preliminary Amendment.

(X) An Information Disclosure Statement.

(X) A PTO Form 1449 with two (2) references.

(X) The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Account No. 11-1410.

(X) Return prepaid postcard.

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HIKAR1.001APC PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant	:	Katsumata *et al.*	Group Art Unit: not yet assigned
Appl. No.	:	09/762,568	
Filed	:	February 6, 2001	
Title	:	NOVEL PLASMID VECTOR	
Examiner	:	not yet assigned	

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 2327
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Sir:

Applicants respectfully request that the Amendment provided below be entered into the record for the present case.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please delete the paragraph on page 53 spanning lines 1-17, and replace it with the following substitute paragraph:

--(b) The methods for treating cancer using the vectors of the present invention also include treating cancer by introducing a drug metabolizing gene, also referred to as a suicide gene, into cancer cells. In this approach, a gene derived from microorganisms, which normally does not exist in the cells and encodes an enzyme involved in a certain metabolic pathway, is introduced by the vectors of the present invention into cancer cells. A prodrug (of an anti-microbial agent, in general) which is activated/exhibited cytotoxicity by the enzyme is then administered such that the cancer cells that have incorporated the gene are killed selectively. Examples of preferred combinations of a suicide gene and an associated prodrug include